INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Works Council Elections 2. Efforts to Postpone West German	DATE DISTR.	23 May 1955
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Works Council Elections

1. Workers in a number of industrial and other enterprises heeded the advice given to them by Western radio stations and submitted opposition lists of candidates for the works councils only at the very last moment and then promptly elected these opposition lists by large majorities. All such instances were reported to the StB, who are now feverishly looking for those responsible. In all enterprises where such opposition lists were elected the works councils were forced to admit additional Communist members after the elections.

Efforts to Postpone West German Rearmament

- 2. Employees in a number of enterprises were ordered to attend organized meetings to protest against the rearmament of Germany. Notwithstanding the fact that attendance was compulsory, the meetings were attended mainly by administrative employees. Of the few workers present still fewer remained to the end, and they mostly left the meetings after a short while. Among those who left early were members of the plant militia, and at the end of each meeting there were only a handful of Communist stalwarts present. There was very little spontaneous enthusiasm and, to make the meetings more impressive to radio listeners, cheer-leaders crowded around the microphones and made as much noise as possible.
- 3. Top Party officials have been discussing the need for achieving a postponement of German rearmament for at least six months. They seem to believe that such a limited postponement would be a resounding political victory for the Communists.

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